

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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P R 150850Z MAR 78
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: SOPN, KS, US
SUBJECT: KOREAN MEDIA ON US RELATED TOPICS, MARCH 15

REF: SEOUL 2034 (DTG 130831Z MAR 78)

1. CARTER/PARK LETTERS. CHOONGANG ILBO SCOOPS ALL OTHER PAPERS WITH HEADLINE STORY FROM "GOVERNMENT SOURCE" THAT CARTER SENT PRES. PARK PERSONAL LETTER IN MID-FEBRUARY WHICH "EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ROKG COOPERATION" IN ARRANGING PTS TESTIMONY IN US. CARTER ALSO RE-AFFIRMED US SECURITY COMMITMENT TO ROK. PARK'S RETURN LETTER IN LATE FEB. EMPHASIZED ROKG POSITION OF "TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH US AND THE NEED FOR SPEEDY RESTORATION" OF SUCH TIES.

2. DOD DUNCAN. FRONTPAGE COVERAGE OF MEETING WITH PRES. PARK. EXCERPTS FROM DUNCAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE: PHASEOUT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS SCHEDULED; LANCE
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DEPLOYMENT IN TEAM SPIRIT 78 DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN US WILL USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN KOREAN CONTINGENCY (HANGUK ILBO ONLY); KOREA CAN BE DEFENDED BY CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS; ANY TYPE OF NK AGGRESSION CAN BE JOINTLY DEFEATED.

3. TROOP WITHDRAWAL. ALL PAPERS GIVE FRONTPAGE TREATMENT TO 3/15 YOMIURI SHIMBUN ARTICLE CITING JSDA

"OFFICIAL" THAT "BEYOND FIRST PHASE OF WITHDRAWAL, PHASEOUT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE COMPLETED AS SCHEDULED".
NOTES THAT "SECOND PHASE OF WITHDRAWAL IS NOT PROGRESSING AT ALL DUE TO DELAY IN COMPENSATORY MEASURES".

4. REP FINDLEY. FRONTPAGE PLAY TO FINDLEY'S HOUSE
SPEECH CALLING FOR US TO ESTABLISH A STRONG NAVAL
BASE ON THE SOUTHERN COAST OF KOREA. NOTE FINDLEY'S
COMMENTS ON NK NAVAL STRENGTH "FOUR TIMES GREATER
THAN ROK, NK MISSILE LAUNCHING CAPABILITY THREE TIMES
GREATER", AND NK SUBMARINE THREAT.

5. US/ROK ENERGY AGREEMENT. OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN
REPORTS MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES ANNOUNCED
US AND ROK WILL CONCLUDE ENERGY AGREEMENT IN LATE
APRIL OR EARLY MAY (WHEN MINISTER CHANG GOES TO US).
AGREEMENT WILL CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR EXCHANGE
OF TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION ON SOLAR ENERGY,
CONSERVATION, AND INSULATION.

6. KOREAGATE. MINOR FRONTPAGE TO PTS SENATE
TESTIMONY THAT HE GAVE LESS THAN \$20,000 TO SIX
SENATORS; AGAIN DENIED HE WAS AGENT OF ROKG. ALSO
REPORT FRASER CMTE WILL MAKE PUBLIC 500 PAGES OF
DOCUMENTS DEALING WITH SCANDAL.

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7. E-SYSTEMS. HANGUK ILBO FRONTPAGE EXCERPTS
FROM NYTIMES STORY THAT ROK WASHINGTON MILITARY ATTACHE
COLONEL LEE KYU-HWAN RECEIVED \$1.4 MILLION COMMISSION
FROM E-SYSTEMS COMPANY CONNECTED WITH SALE OF ELECTRONIC
EQUIPMENT TO ROK.

8. KOREAGATE FEATURE REPORTING. CHOONGANG ILBO
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT CONTINUES FOR SECOND DAY
LARGE PIECE ON WASHINGTON ATMOSPHERE IN KOREAGATE
INVESTIGATION. NOTES THAT SENATE COMTE, HOUSE CMTE
RECEIVING PTS TESTIMONY; FRASER HOUSE CMTE TO HEAR
TESTIMONY ON USG COVERUP ALLEGATIONS; KIM HAN-CHO
TRIAL, HANNA TRIAL, KIM TONG-CHO CONTROVERSY. IN
SUM, "KOREA WILL BE ON A KITCHEN CUTTING BOARD; THE
CUTTING COMPETITION WILL REACH A CLIMAX IN THE NEXT
TEN DAYS". CARICATURES SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS:
"FRASER WANTS TO RUN FOR THE SENATE" (NEEDS THE PUBLICITY);
JAWORSKI "TRYING TO KEEP UP HIS GOOD WORK" (AS WITH NIXON
RESIGNATION); "PLITICALLY AMBITIOUS" CAPUTO; AND
STEVENSON "WHO WANTS TO BECOME THE NEXT US PRESIDENT".
TONE OF THE REPORTING IS TO SUGGEST THAT EVERYONE WANTS
TO GRAB SOME OF THE LIMELIGHT AND THE COMPETITION

IS GETTING STRONGER. TONGA ILBO CORRESPONDENT HAS
MAR 15 FEATURE ALONG SAME LINES (EVERYONE COMPETING FOR
PUBLICITY) NOTING, "ALL IN ALL, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
TILL HAVE SOMETHING LIKE A KOREA WEEK BEGINNING
MAR 15." OPINES THAT BEHIND FRASER COMMITTEE CLAIMS
OF INVESTIGATING USG COVERUP, THE COMMITTEE INTENDS
TO PROVE PTS ACTIVITIES WERE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS
FROM ROKG. NOTES POSSIBLE RESURFACING OF QUESTIONS ABOUT "SO-
CALLED BLUE HOUSE EAVESDROPPING"; IF FRASER COMMITTEE MAKES
PUBLIC DOCUMENTS FROM INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.
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